Aotearoa Black Press #1

For Aotearoa Independent Media Centre
Wellington
Auckland
Christchurch
visit:

indymedia.org.nz

"The Independent Media centre is a grassroots organization committed to using media production and distribution as a tool for promoting social and economic justice. It is our goal to further the self-determination of people under-represented in media production and content, and to illuminate and analyze local and global issues that impact ecosystems, communities and individuals.
We seek to generate alternatives to the biases inherent in the corporate media controlled by profit, and to identify and create positive models for a sustainable and equitable society."
- IMC Seattle

We are anarchists.

By that, we do not mean we believe in mindless chaos, nor in a struggle of all against all. Rather, we follow in the tradition of anarchist thinkers such as Peter Kropotkin, Gandhi and Noam Chomsky. We believe every individual has the right to live as they will, provided they do not interfere with the right of anyone else to do the same.

Our vision of an ideal society is one where our lives are ours to live and where our planet is no longer treated as an infinite resource heap and an infinite dump. Perhaps we are idealists, but what other choice do we have?

Humanity stands on the brink of an environmental collapse. We are driven to that brink by the economics of infinite expansion and constant growth. Resource over-consumption is now so chronic that wars for resources are routine. The most powerful interests in our world, far from halting these trends, are in fact responsible for them.

With the mass media now controlled by an ever-shrinking number of transnational corporations, silence we believe, is only one small step away from complicity with this global crisis.

Hence, Aotearoa Black Press.

We have no illusions about our own importance. This publication is created in our own spare time and distributed with our own resources. It's unlikely to ever be read by more than a handful of people

We do hope that the scales are tipped the right way by the efforts of autonomous groups like ours. Thus, we will always remain autonomous from the interests of governments, corporations or political parties.

We do not speak for everyone – just for ourselves. Some of the articles within are written by us, some by by people we've never met.

www.anarchistfaq.org

Contributors wanted—send in feedback, article ideas (or actual articles), rants, pictures and so on. Without you this publication would be nothing but the effort of two wired guys late on a Sunday night.

No copyright. Distribute at will.

Contact either:
Damian or the other guy @ hipasfuhk@yahoo.co.nz or 445 2277

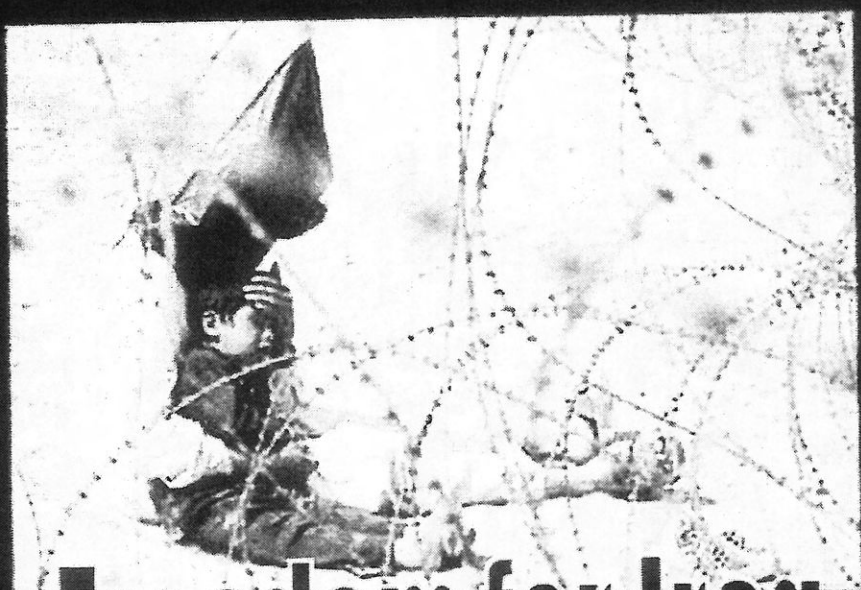
you are free ...

now continue working

WASTED

Independence from U.S Day

July 4th



Freedom for Iraq

US, UK & NZ Troops OUT NOW
End the Occupation

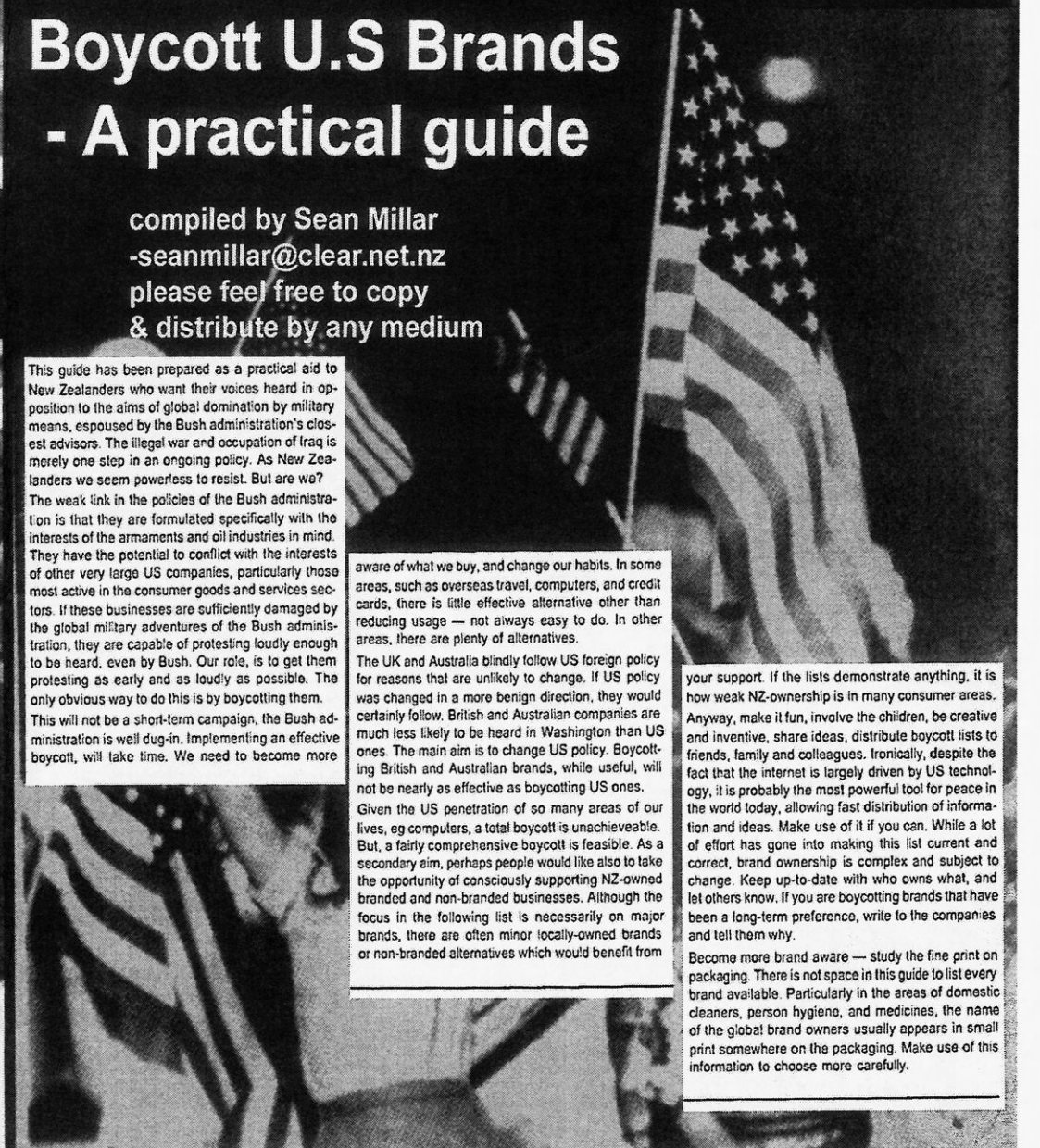
5.30-6.30pm Friday July 4

US Consulate Customs St

Global Peace and Justice Auckland - www.gpja.pl.net

Boycott U.S Brands - A practical guide

compiled by Sean Millar
-seanmillar@clear.net.nz
please feel free to copy
& distribute by any medium



This guide has been prepared as a practical aid to New Zealanders who want their voices heard in opposition to the aims of global domination by military means, espoused by the Bush administration's closest advisors. The illegal war and occupation of Iraq is merely one step in an ongoing policy. As New Zealanders we seem powerless to resist. But are we?

The weak link in the policies of the Bush administration is that they are formulated specifically with the interests of the armaments and oil industries in mind. They have the potential to conflict with the interests of other very large US companies, particularly those most active in the consumer goods and services sectors. If these businesses are sufficiently damaged by the global military adventures of the Bush administration, they are capable of protesting loudly enough to be heard, even by Bush. Our role, is to get them protesting as early and as loudly as possible. The only obvious way to do this is by boycotting them.

This will not be a short-term campaign, the Bush administration is well dug-in. Implementing an effective boycott, will take time. We need to become more aware of what we buy, and change our habits. In some areas, such as overseas travel, computers, and credit cards, there is little effective alternative other than reducing usage — not always easy to do. In other areas, there are plenty of alternatives.

The UK and Australia blindly follow US foreign policy for reasons that are unlikely to change. If US policy was changed in a more benign direction, they would certainly follow. British and Australian companies are much less likely to be heard in Washington than US ones. The main aim is to change US policy. Boycotting British and Australian brands, while useful, will not be nearly as effective as boycotting US ones.

Given the US penetration of so many areas of our lives, eg computers, a total boycott is unachieveable. But, a fairly comprehensive boycott is feasible. As a secondary aim, perhaps people would like also to take the opportunity of consciously supporting NZ-owned branded and non-branded businesses. Although the focus in the following list is necessarily on major brands, there are often minor locally-owned brands or non-branded alternatives which would benefit from your support. If the lists demonstrate anything, it is how weak NZ-ownership is in many consumer areas.

Anyway, make it fun, involve the children, be creative and inventive, share ideas, distribute boycott lists to friends, family and colleagues. Ironically, despite the fact that the internet is largely driven by US technology, it is probably the most powerful tool for peace in the world today, allowing fast distribution of information and ideas. Make use of it if you can. While a lot of effort has gone into making this list current and correct, brand ownership is complex and subject to change. Keep up-to-date with who owns what, and let others know. If you are boycotting brands that have been a long-term preference, write to the companies and tell them why.

Become more brand aware — study the fine print on packaging. There is not space in this guide to list every brand available. Particularly in the areas of domestic cleaners, person hygiene, and medicines, the name of the global brand owners usually appears in small print somewhere on the packaging. Make use of this information to choose more carefully.

Relevant NZ contacts:- *Campaign Against Foreign Control of Aotearoa*, P O Box 2258, Christchurch. www.cafa.org.nz / *New Internationalist*, P O Box 35038, Shirley, Christchurch. www.newint.org / *Anti-Bases Campaign* P O Box 2258 Christchurch. / *Global Peace & Justice Auckland*, Private Bag 68905, Newton, Auckland. www.gpja.pl.net / *Peace Movement Aotearoa*, P O Box 9314 Wellington www.converge.org.nz / *www.scoop.co.nz* — an excellent online newspaper / *www.spendforpeace.co.nz* and *www.stopusa.org* — two NZ-based boycott websites ***Excellent International websites:-*** *www.transnationale.org* — an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the ownership of major global companies / *www.zmag.org* — an outstanding US online news magazine / *www.boycottusa.com* — a Canadian-based US boycott web site ***Good books readily available In NZ:-*** Helen Caldicott's *The New Nuclear Danger: George W Bush's Military-Industrial Complex* (Scribe Publications, Melbourne, 2002); Naomi Klein's *No Logo* (Harper Collins/Flamingo, 2001); John Pilger's *The New Rulers of the World* (Verso, 2002); David Suzuki & Holly Dressel's *Naked Ape to Superspecies* (Allen & Unwin, 2002).

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC

Dry cell batteries *US-controlled brands:-* Duracell; Energiser; EverReady. *alternatives:-* Panasonic (Japanese); Toshiba (Japanese); Ringgrip (Australian).

Electric appliances *US-controlled brands:-* Black & Decker; Braun; General Electric; Hoover; Maytag; Remington; Westinghouse. *alternatives:-* Fisher & Paykel (NZ); Ralta (NZ); Breville (Australian); de Longhi (Italian); Goldair (Australian); Kenwood (Italian); LG (Korean); Samsung (Korean); Simpson (Swedish); Sunbeam (Australian).

Video and DVD players, TV, Radio, etc There does not appear to be any significant NZ involvement of US brands in these product types.

Computers *US-controlled brands:-* Apple; Compaq; Dell; Hewlett-Packard/HP; IBM ; Intel; Palm. *alternatives:-* almost all computers have a significant US input in terms of hardware and software. Buy second hand, or buy The P C Company (NZ); Sony (Japanese); Acer (Taiwanese); Toshiba (Japanese) for machines with less US input than most.

Software, etc *US-controlled brands:-* Adobe; Apple; Macromedia; Microsoft; Quark; Symantic; and many others. *alternatives:-* the computer software market is dominated by US brands. Update less frequently, persist with older versions of software. Use the open source Linux operating system and other shareware as much as you are able.

Printers, Scanners, etc *US-controlled brands:-* Hewlett-Packard/HP; Imation; Iomega; Mustek; and many others. *alternatives:-* Acer (Taiwanese); Agfa (Belgian); Brother (Japanese), Canon (Japanese); Epson (Japanese); Panasonic (Japanese); Sony (Japanese), and many others.

Recordable media, film, etc *US-controlled brands:-* 3M; Hewlett-Packard/HP; Imation; Iomega; Kodak. *alternatives:-* Agfa (Belgian); Fuji (Japanese); Mitsubishi (Japanese); TDK (Japanese); Sony (Japanese); SKC (Korean).

Mobile phones *US-controlled brand:-* Motorola. *alternatives:-* Nokia (Finnish); Alcatel (French); Sony (Japanese); Hyundai (Korean); Samsung (Korean).

Games and consoles, etc *US-controlled brand:-* X-box. *alternative:-* Playstation (Japanese).

TRANSPORT & TRAVEL

Petrol *US-controlled brands:-* Caltex; Mobil. *alternatives:-* Gull (Australian); BP (British); Shell (Anglo-Dutch) . *Note:-* both BP and Shell have ethically problematic histories. However, in the current situation, Caltex and Mobil have much more opportunity to influence US government policy.

Motor vehicles *US-controlled brands:-* Ford; General Motors; Harley Davidson; Holden; Isuzu; Jaguar, Jeep; Land-Rover; Mazda; Saab; Volvo. *alternatives:-* Fiat (Italian); Honda (Japanese); Hyundai (Korean); Nissan (French/Japanese); Pugeot (French); Renault (French); Suzuki (Japanese); Toyota (Japanese); VW (German).

Tyres *US-controlled brands:-* Dunlop; Goodrich; Goodyear. *alternatives:-* Bridgestone (Japanese); Continental (German); Firestone (Japanese); Michelin (French).

Travel *Note:-* nearly all commercial aircraft serving NZ are built by Boeing, a major US weapons manufacturer. Even aircraft built by the European manufacturer, Airbus, contain significant amounts of componentry supplied by US companies that are often major suppliers to the US military. Aircraft consume huge amounts of fuel, often from US-controlled sources. Rental car brands are almost entirely US-owned. *alternatives:-* reduce overseas travel to the minimum (also good for the environment as air travel is the worst thing many NZers do to increase global warming). Use surface transport as much as possible, both within NZ, and within other countries if you do travel overseas.

OTHER

Clothes, shoes, etc *US-controlled brands:-* Berlei; Boss; Cat, Dockers; Dunlop; Champion; Hanes; Hush Puppies; Lycra; Nike; New Balance; Levi's; Sketchers; Reebok; Lee; Riders; Wrangler, Walt Disney; Gap, Playtex, Polo; Ralph Lauren; Slazenger; Timberland; Tri-Mountain; Wonderbra; and many others. *alternatives:-* Bendon (NZ); Canterbury of New Zealand (NZ); Columbine (NZ); Line 7 (NZ); Secrets (NZ); Adidas (German); Asics (Japanese); Fila (Italian); Puma (German); Triumph (German), and many others.

Book retailers *US-controlled brands:-* Borders; Amazon.com. *alternatives:-* your local non-chain bookseller (NZ); Whitcoulls (British); Dymocks (Australian).

Toys & games *Note:-* the branded toys & games market in NZ is dominated by two major US companies: - Hasbro Inc. (numerous brands including:- Milton Bradley, Parker Brothers, Pokemon, Playskool, Tonka); Mattel Inc. (numerous brands including:- Barbie, Fisher-Price, Hot Wheels, Matchbox, Sesame Street, Tyco). *alternatives:-* NZ-made toys produced by local craftspeople and small businesses (NZ); Bandai (Japanese); Lego (Danish); Playmobil (German).

Banks There does not appear to be any significant involvement of US banks in the NZ retail banking sector. However, all the major retail banks are either Australian (ANZ, ASB, BNZ, Westpac), or British (National Bank). *recommendation:-* move some or all of your custom to the two NZ-owned banks — Kiwibank, and TSB.

Insurance There does not appear to be any significant involvement of US companies in the NZ insurance sector. However, most of the major companies are Australian or British. *recommendation:-* move some or all of your custom to the NZ-owned company AMI, a regular top performer in Consumer Institute customer satisfaction surveys.

Credit cards *US-controlled brands:-* American Express; Diners Club; Mastercard; Visa. *alternatives:-* there are no significant non-US brands. As much as possible, pay by cash, cheque or EFTPOS to avoid commissions going to these US brands.

Music, TV, movies, videos, DVDs, books, magazines, etc *Note:-* surprisingly, many US-based brands in these areas of business are owned by non-US companies, eg by:- EMI/Virgin (UK); Vivendi (French); Mohn, Reinhard (German); Sony (Japanese); News Corp (Australian). Ownership seems to have little or no effect on content, and US cultural norms continue to be promoted to a degree that endangers other national identities. *Recommendation:-* avoid US-produced material as much as possible, regardless of corporate ownership. Support the NZ creative community regardless of label/publisher.

Paints, sealants, etc *US-controlled brands:-* Ados; Benjamin Moore; CRC; Epiglass. *alternatives:-* Resene (NZ); British Paints (Australian); Cabot's (Australian); Dulux (Australian/British); Poly (Australian); Selleys (Australian); Taubmans (Australian); Wattyl (Australian).

Tools *US-controlled brands:-* Black & Decker; DeWalt; Fullers; Skil, Stanley, and others. *alternatives:-* Bosch (German); Hitachi (Japanese); Ryobi (Japanese), and others.

Pharmaceuticals *US-controlled brand owners:-* Abbott Laboratories; Pfizer; Wyeth/American Home Products; Schering Plough; Bristol Myers Squibb; Johnson & Johnson; Eli Lilly; Procter & Gamble; Dial Corp; 3M (Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing) *alternative brand owners:-* Bayer (German); AstraZeneca (British); Aventis (French); Reckitt Benckiser (British); Novartis (Swiss); Smithkline Beecham (British).

FOOD & GROCERIES

Note:- by far the largest NZ-owned grocery brand is Pam's, which offers a wide range of products covering many categories. Pam's products are available from:- Pak n Save and New World supermarkets.

Fast food *US-controlled brands:-* Burger King; Denny's; McDonalds; Starbucks; Subway; Wendy's; KFC; Pizza Hut; Long John Silver's/ LJS. *alternatives:-* local non-branded outlets, eat at home, make up a picnic, or a cut lunch.

Cereals *US-controlled brand:-* Kellogg's. *alternatives:-* Hubbards (NZ); Sanitarium (NZ).

Canned & bottled foods, etc *US-controlled brands:-* Campbells; Craigs; Heinz; Oak; Watties; Weight Watchers. *alternatives:-* Barker's (NZ); Pam's (NZ); Sanitarium (NZ); Basics (Australian); First Choice (Australian); SPC (Australian); Signature (Australian).

Sauces, & spreads, etc *US-controlled brands:-* Heinz; Kraft; Master Foods; Watties; Vegemite. *alternatives:-* Eta (French); Cerebos/Fountain (Singaporean/Japanese); Continetal (British); Maggi (Swiss); Marmite (NZ); Sanitarium (NZ) Whitlocks (Singaporean/Japanese).

Frozen foods *US-controlled brands:-* McCain's; Tegal; Watties. *alternatives:-* Pam's (NZ); Talley's (NZ); Inghams (Australian).

Fresh meat & dairy products Apart from chicken (Tegal), there appears to be no significant involvement of US brands in this sector.

Beer & wine There does not appear to be any significant involvement of US brands in NZ - made products. The three largest local producers are overseas-controlled, but many smaller ones are NZ-owned.

Bread There does not appear to be any significant involvement of US brands in the NZ market in this sector — all major brands are Australian-controlled.

Coffee, drinking chocolate *US-controlled brands:-* Hershey's; Marcona. *alternatives:-* Bournvita (British); Greggs (Singaporean/ Japanese); Jarrah (Swiss); International Roast (Swiss); Milo (Swiss); Nestle (Swiss); Robert Harris (Singaporean/Japanese).

Cigarettes *US-controlled brand owner:-* Philip Morris - (Black & White, Marlboro, Lark, Merit, etc). *alternative brands:-* Lucky Strike; Kent; Dunhill; Pall Mall; Rothmans; Kool; Benson & Hedges, all (British).

Fresh fruit *US-controlled brands:-* Bonita; Chiquita; Del Monte; Dole; Sunkist. (*Note:-* almost all bananas and eating grapes in NZ are US-branded; as are many pineapples and oranges.) *alternatives:-* avoid bananas and grapes, be selective with pineapples and oranges; other fresh fruit OK.

Confectionery, icecream *US-controlled brands:-* Bounty; Juicy Fruit; Maltesers; Mars; M&M's; Milky Way; Snickers; Twix; Skittles; Starburst; Toblerone; Wrigley, and others. *alternatives:-* RJ's (NZ); Tip Top (NZ); Allen's (Swiss); Cadbury/Pascall (British).

Biscuits, snacks & desserts *US-controlled brands:-* Kellogg's; Sarah Lee; Weight Watchers. *alternatives:-* Bluebird (Australian); Ernest Adams (Australian); Eta (French); Griffins (French); Irvines (Australian); Uncle Toby's (Australian).

Soft drinks, juice, etc *US-controlled brands:-* Coca-Cola; Deep Spring; e2; Fanta; Fruitopia; Keri; Kiwi Blue; Ikon; Lemon & Paeroa/L&P; Lift; Mirinda; Mountain Dew; Nestea; Pepsi; Powerade; Pump; Rio Gold; Schweppes; 7-Up; Thextons; Tropicana. *alternatives:-* Arano (NZ); Charlie's (NZ); Chi' (NZ); Pam's (NZ); Phoenix (NZ); Simply Squeezed (NZ); Fresh-Up (French); Golden Circle (Australian); Just Juice (French); McCoy's (French); "V" (French).

Pet foods *US-controlled brands:-* Champ; Chef; PAL/Pedegree; Rival; Whiskas. *alternatives:-* Pam's (NZ); Go-Cat (Swiss); Tux (Swiss); First Choice (Australian).

Soaps, cleaners, detergents, etc *US-controlled brands:-* various brands of Colgate-Palmolive; Johnson & Johnson, and Proctor & Gamble including - Protex; Softsoap; Palmolive; Ajax; Dynamo; Fab; and many others. *alternatives:-* various brands of Cusson's (British); Unilever/ Lever Rexona (British) and Reckitt Benckiser (British), eg Lux, Persil, Sunlight, Surf, Drive, Morning Fresh, Down to Earth.

Shampoos, cosmetics, etc *US-controlled brands:-* Alberto Vo5; Herbal Essences; Nature's Accent; Clinique; Estée Lauder; Tommy Hilfiger; Neutrogena; Head & Shoulders; Pantene; Physique; Vidal Sassoon; Revlon, and many others *alternatives:-* Pam's (NZ); Body Shop (British); various brands of Lever Rexona (British) eg Timotei, Rexona, Dove, Sunsilk.

Toothpaste, etc *US-controlled brands:-* Colgate; Listerine; Reach; and others. *alternatives:-* various brands of Unilever (British) and Reckitt Benckiser (British), eg Macleans, Aim, Close-Up.

Shaving *US-controlled brands:-* Braun; Gillette; Schick; Wilkinson Sword. *alternatives:-* Bic (French); Philishave (Dutch)

Toilet paper, tissues, nappies, etc *US-controlled:-* various brands of Kimberly-Clark and Johnson & Johnson; including Huggies; Kleenex. *alternatives:-* Quilton (Australian); various brands of Carter Holt Harvey (NZ) including Purex, Sorbent, etc. (*Note:-* Carter Holt Harvey is 51% owned by a US company, but its sole major competitor is US-owned Kimberly-Clark.)

Dietary Supplements *US-controlled brands:-* Nature's Sunshine; Nature's Way; Solgar, TwinLab. *alternatives:-* Healtheries (NZ); Red Seal (NZ); Thompsons (NZ).

Other household items *US-controlled brands:-* 3M; Chux; Post-it; Scotch; Teflon; Rubbermaid; Black & Decker; Johnson Wax Co; Glade; Pledge; Raid. *alternatives:-* various brands of Unilever (British) and Reckitt Benckiser (British), eg XLO, Jiff, Steelo, etc.

Fig. 1

INSTRUMENT OF CRIME

Fig. 2

INSTRUMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

drink,debate,talk shit

(until the revolution that is!!)

all welcome

every friday
6:30pm
Mexican Cafe (till we have our own venue!!!)
somewhere on Victoria St

Europe: Summer of Revolt

Over the last two months several European nations have been rocked by massive anti-capitalist protests

Thessaloniki: EU Summit in Greece

Over 125,000 protesters converged on Thessaloniki to protest EU's immigration and refugee policies, complicity with the war in Iraq and pension reform.

In a build-up to the summit, a group of anarchists have taken over the Law faculty at the Univeristy of Thessaloniki and set up an Independent Media Centre there. Anarchist techs used the Law faculty's computers to set up a multilingual internet radio station, and the Philosophy department has been squatted for use as accommodation.

On the 20th of June, the second day of the summit, two anarchist demonstrations attempted to penetrate the off-limits Red Zone but were driven back by tear gas. The following day, an anarchist march in the centre of the city was tear gassed by the police, as two banks, a McDonald's branch and a Vodafone store were set on fire. Many protesters fled to the University grounds which were then ringed by the police and besieged until the end of the summit.

STOP

Fotos aus Thessaloniki

Grecia: Galería gráfica de los enfrentamientos en el perímetro de la Zona Roja

Geneva/Evian: G8 Summit

A G8 summit held at Evian on 1st - 3rd June saw the greatest civil unrest in Switzerland since 1932. G8, consisting of US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada and Russia, has used its' influence to dictate the global economic policy.

Thousands of demonstrators built blockades at strategic points to prevent the G8 delegates arriving in Geneva from reaching the summit destination in Evian. The official response was severe. Protesters encountered heavy use of tear gas, rubber bullets, concussion grenades and even riot police brought in from Germany – the latter being illegal under the Swiss constitution.

Outraged by the out-of-control behavior of the German riot police, a number of locals took to the streets to support the blockades. Some provided water to protesters to help them wash off tear gas residue.

Striking rail workers in France have lent their aid to the protests as well – a free train filled with activists was taken across the French-Swiss border without passport controls.

France: Protest, Disruption, General Strikes

France has seen several general strikes by hundreds of thousands of rail, airport, municipal workers and others. The strikes have been organized in response to deeply unpopular pension reform plans announced by the government. Under the new system, pension funding is to be reduced, effectively forcing the pension age even higher.

As many as 40 cities have been affected by the unrest. Flights and trains have been cancelled throughout the country, demonstrations have blocked highways in 8 major cities including Paris and Marseille and a seaport barricaded and defended against riot police for 23 hours.

A 200000-strong march to the National Assembly on 10th June was broken up by riot police with the use of tear gas, baton charges and water cannons. These heavy-handed tactics led to clashes with the police when protesters responded with a hail of cobblestones.

The strikes have continued throughout May and June, with no end in sight.

photos de Genève
après midi du 1-6-2003

IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD YOU HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELF

Education & Culture COmmunitv Center

LETS BUILD AN ACTIVIST RESOURCE AND COMMUNITY CENTER FOR ANY ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS TOWARDS EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY IN AN ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN, GRASSROOTS MANNER.

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OPEN DISCUSSION
EVERY SUNDAY @ 12:00
& EVERY MONDAY @ 7

9/210 SYMONDS ST.
(GO DOWN THE ALLEYWAY BESIDES THE FISH & CHIPS AND FIND THE RED DOOR)

PHONE: (09) 30-70-789

HTTP://ECCO.ENZYME.ORG.NZ

Free Internet In Iraq

Ed - This piece was written by a Baghdad resident and posted on www.almuajaha.com

Ya Allah have mercy on our souls.

The old state owned Internet center in Adil district has been taken over by anarchists and they are offering internet access for FREE. You just need to dial up a number, no password, no special settings.

Whoever heard of anyone doing that?

About a week ago a rumor spread that the Adil center had put up a sat. dish and will be using the setup the Iraqi government used to have to provide the service. [

Uruklink.net] is back. The people who used to work there opened the center 4 days ago; you can have an hour of internet for as little as 2000dinars.

The centre is very well equipped, they put together 30 of their best computers and have a very good connection (ok so 30 computers in a city of 5 million is nothing, but it is a start). They even have military protection. The people who work there got a couple of soldiers from the nearest army checkpoint to take a look, the officer asked if it was OK for his men to check on their emails and so on. The reaction from the first couple of guys who came in was a very amazed "Wow!".

Yesterday they put up a piece of paper that said: "we are happy to announce that you can get free internet access by dialing up this number". The telephone network is not fully operational, certain districts don't have phones at all, but as I wrote earlier many of the exchanges that have not been destroyed or looted have been linked together. You will need to keep dialing for an hour to get thru but it works, I tried it.

Not a million bad things could have wiped the grin off my face when I read that little note. Baghdad will also be getting its first GSM network in about two weeks. A couple of thousand lines as a first step, mainly for NGOs and Administration. I think it is going to be MCI who will set this up.

Radio SAWA should be playing the Stereo MC's "Connected" all the time.

- The Iraqi Witness, www.almuajaha.com

"Everywhere revolutionaries
Nowhere revolution"

start an affinity group

Affinity Groups – A Primer

What is an affinity group?

An affinity group is a small group of people (perhaps 5-10) with shared interests that work together on political or social projects. Affinity groups are completely autonomous - only the members of the group decide on what the group will or will not do. Affinity groups usually consist of people that know and trust each other or of people that share political ideals.

How are decisions made?

Decisions within the affinity group should be made by consensus: a proposal is issued, then discussed with a view to finding an optimal solution. Consensus is reached when there is no longer anyone within the group that objects to the decision.

How do multiple affinity groups organize?

Multiple groups can organize by organizing a confederation. A confederation may consist of any number of affinity groups, thus incorporating any number of people. As with individual groups, decisions should only incorporate and affect those individuals or groups that make them.

Why are affinity groups important?

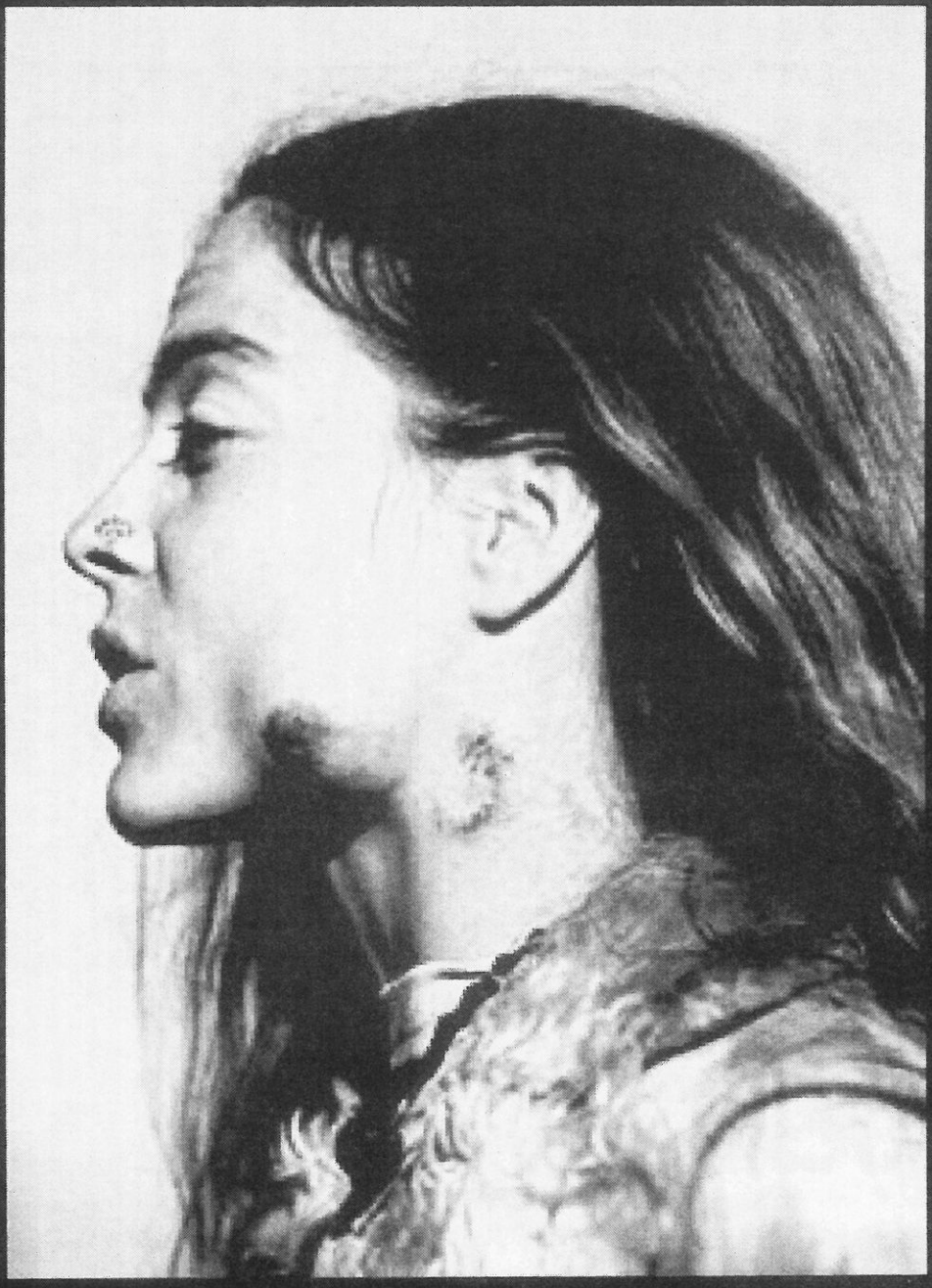
Affinity groups are a means of developing strong bonds between activists (or friends) and a vehicle for turning enthusiasm into action. Besides that, affinity groups challenge the classical top-down model of organization and teach communal decision making and **respect for individual differences.**

Why is consensus decision-making important?

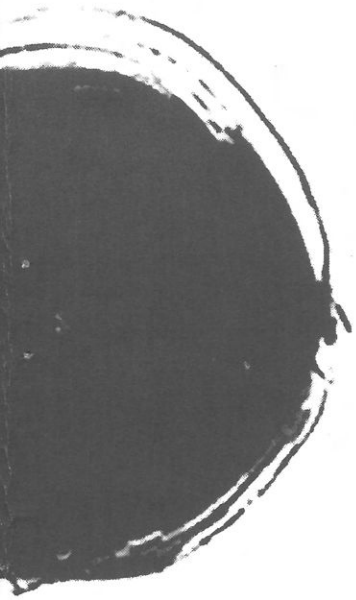
History has shown us that those who are in the right sometimes find themselves in a minority. It follows then that for true equality to exist a majority should not make decisions for a minority any more than a single individual should force their will on others.

//POSSESSIONS//ARE

//OF//THE//LAW//
9/10



Protester shot at Port of Oakland anti war protest with rubber ammunition



A black spot - all by itself, sitting on a billboard - could be graffiti or plain old defacement. But a squadron of spots all over town?

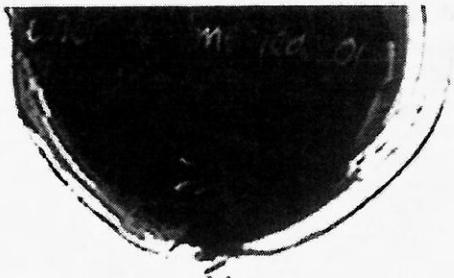
Now that's wonderful subversion.

In the coming months a black spot will pop up everywhere . . . on store windows and newspaper boxes, on gas pumps and supermarket shelves. Open a magazine or newspaper - it's there. It's on TV. It stains the logos and smears the nerve centers of the world's biggest corporations.

This is the mark of the people who don't approve of Bush's plan to control the world, who don't want countries "liberated" without UN backing, who can't stand anymore neo-con bravado shoved down their throats.

This is the mark of the people who want the Kyoto Protocol for the environment, who want the International Criminal Court for greater justice, who want a world where all nations, including the U.S.A., are free of weapons of mass destruction, and who pledge to take their country back.

July 4th, the revolution

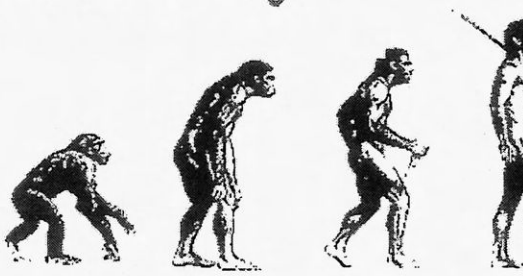


July 4th

Because my country has sold
its soul to corporate power
Because consumerism has become
our national religion
Because we've forgotten the true
meaning of freedom
And because patriotism now
means agreeing with the president

I pledge to do my duty . . .
and take my country back.

<unbrandamerica.org>



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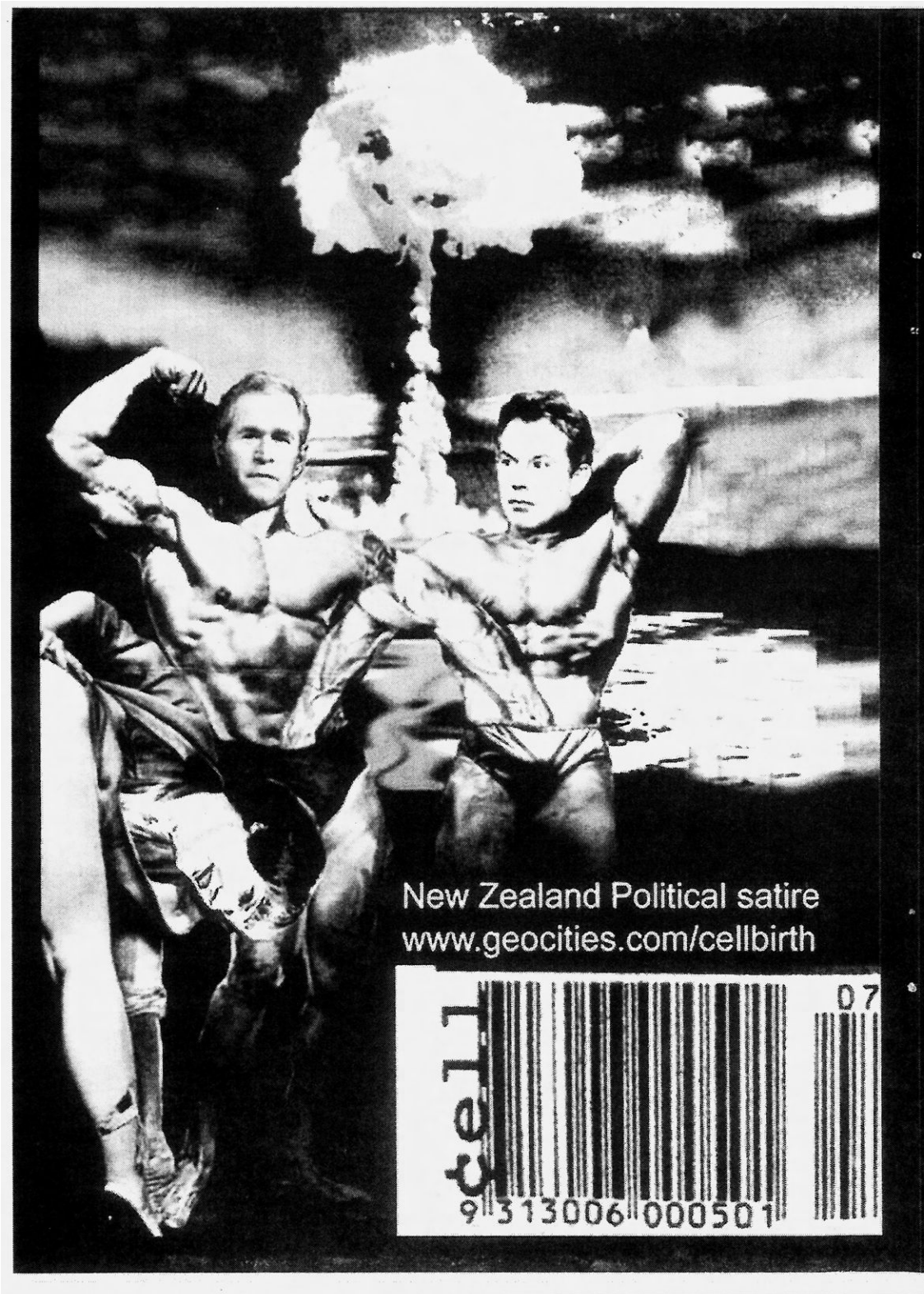
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